

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Utah

Profile of Drug Indicators

March 2003



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Utah

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population: 2,316,256 (July 2002 estimate); 2,233,169 (2000 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity: 85.3% white; 0.7% black/African American; 1.2% American Indian/Alaska Native; 1.6% Asian; 0.7% Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander; 0.1% some other race; 1.4% two or more races; 9.0% Hispanic/Latino origin (of any race)

Politics

- Governor: Mike Leavitt²
- Lt. Governor: Olene S. Walker³
- Attorney General: Mark Shurtleff⁴
- U.S. House of Representatives: Rob Bishop; Jim Matheson; Chris Cannon⁵
- U.S. Senate: Robert Bennett (R), Orrin Hatch (R)⁶

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁷
The Rocky Mountain HIDTA was designated in 1996 and consists of counties in Colorado, Montana, Utah and Wyoming. The following counties in Utah are included: Davis, Salt Lake, Summit, Utah, Washington and Weber.
- Living Skills⁸
This program provides a selective prevention strategy for high-risk students in the second through fifth grades designed to address behavioral risk factors that can lead to substance abuse.
- Strengthening Families Program⁹
Conducted by the University of Utah, the Strengthening Families Program is a prevention intervention for families from high-risk populations and includes parent training, children skills training and family skills training. The program reduces the use of alcohol and tobacco among older children and the expectations to use alcohol and tobacco among non-using children.
- Prevention Dimensions¹⁰
The mission of Prevention Dimensions, which was started in the early 1980's, is to provide a strong foundation of effective violence and substance abuse prevention strategies in Utah Schools. Teachers receive effective prevention resources and a positive prevention attitude they can implement in the classroom. The foundation of this prevention strategy has been enhanced and updated based on current research in effective school-based prevention.

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in Utah:¹¹
 - FY 2002: none
 - FY 2001:

- \$99,908 to Millard School District, Delta;
- FY 2000:
 - \$100,000 to Kearns Town Council, Murray;
- FY 1999:
 - \$100,000 to The Crime Council, Murray;
 - \$99,509 to Utah Council for Crime Prevention, Salt Lake City;
 - \$100,000 to Utah Federation for Youth Inc., Salt Lake City;
- FY 1998:
 - \$99,779 to University of Utah, Salt Lake City
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Formula and Discretionary Grant summary for Utah:¹²
 - Formula Funding: \$19,882,653
 - Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant: \$16,460,288
 - Community Mental Health Service Block Grant: \$2,737,465
 - Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH): \$300,000
 - Protection and Advocacy Formula Grant: \$384,900
 - Discretionary Funding: \$5,646,887
 - Mental Health: \$2,586,681
 - Substance Prevention: \$2,911,448
 - Substance Abuse Treatment: \$148,758
 - Total Mental Health Funds: \$6,009,046
 - Total Substance Abuse Funds: \$19,520,494
 - Total Funds for Utah: \$25,529,540
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed¹³

Three sites in Utah have received Federal funding and official recognition as Weed and Seed sites. There are sites in Ogden City, Salt Lake City, and West Valley City.
- FY 2002 Byrne Formula Grant Program amount awarded to Utah: \$4,515,473¹⁴
- FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant amount received in Utah:¹⁵
 - \$499,998 to Davis County School District Office of the Superintendent for drug court implementation.
- FY 1996-2002 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for State Prisoners Formula Grant amount allocated to Utah:¹⁶
 - FY 1996: \$162,228
 - FY 1997: \$185,163
 - FY 1998: \$410,893
 - FY 1999: \$405,543
 - FY 2000: \$398,717
 - FY 2001: \$430,274
 - FY 2002: \$474,028
- FY 2002 Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Grant recipient in Utah:¹⁷
 - \$ 295,103 to the City of Salt Lake
- There were no recipients of the FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant in Utah.¹⁸

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2001, there were 30,891 total part 1 crime arrests in Utah.¹⁹

Number of Arrests, Utah, 2001

2001	
Selected Offenses	
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	54
Manslaughter by negligence	6
Forcible rape	239
Robbery	334
Aggravated assault	1,171
Burglary	1,541
Larceny theft	15,984
Motor vehicle theft	765
Simple assault	10,632
Arson	165
Total part 1 crime arrests	30,891
State arrest total	132,394

- During 2001, there were 1,087 arrests for the sale of marijuana and 6,326 arrests for possession of marijuana.²⁰

Number of Drug-Related Arrests, Utah, 2001

2001	
Drug sale or manufacturing arrests	
Sale/opium	323
Sale/marijuana	1,087
Sale/synthetic narcotics	89
Sale/Other	358
Drug possession arrests	
Possession/opium	787
Possession/marijuana	6,326
Possession/synthetic narcotics	399
Possession/other	2,567

- The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reported 332 drug violation arrests in Utah during 2001.²¹

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, Utah, 1997-2001

Number of Arrests	
1997	332
1998	477
1999	520
2000	455
2001	332

- During 2001, 49.3% of female arrestees and 53.6% of male arrestees in Salt Lake City tested positive for drugs at the time of arrest.²²

Percent of Arrestees Testing Positive for Drugs, Salt Lake City, 2001

	Female Arrestees	Male Arrestees
Cocaine	21.7%	16.0%
Opiates	15.9	4.9
Marijuana	18.8	34.3
Methamphetamine	18.8	17.2
PCP	0.0	0.0
Any drug	49.3	53.6
Multiple drugs	23.2	16.3

Drugs

- Cocaine²³
Cocaine continues to be a problem throughout all areas of Utah. Kilogram quantities of powder cocaine are available along the Wasatch Range, which includes approximately 75 percent of the state's population. Crack cocaine is available in ounce quantities, though it is confined primarily to larger cities.
- Heroin²⁴
Heroin continues to be a serious problem throughout Utah. Mexican brown and black tar heroin are readily available throughout the state, though multi-ounce and larger quantities are primarily distributed in the major cities.
- Marijuana²⁵
Marijuana is easily grown in the remote areas of the state that are favorable for growing operations due to the fertile soil. Some outdoor grow owners have utilized armed Mexican immigrants to tend the plants. Homemade irrigation systems have been developed to counteract the arid climate of these remote sites and camouflage techniques have become more sophisticated.
- Methamphetamine²⁶
Methamphetamine remains the largest drug threat throughout Utah.
- Club Drugs²⁷
Ecstasy, GHB, Ketamine, and Oxycontin are quickly becoming a significant law enforcement problem. Club drugs, primarily Ecstasy, have been identified as the second largest drug threat within Utah. Ecstasy is typically purchased in tablet form, although powder is also available in very limited quantities. Information about the use of Ketamine has been received, though only small purchases by local law enforcement have been made. Smaller quantities of OxyContin are being distributed in various pockets throughout the state. GHB is also available in many portions of Utah. LSD use and availability appear to be reduced from previous years. DEA Salt Lake City considers LSD to be a continuing problem, though its popularity has decreased with the increase in MDMA availability and usage. Because of the ease of procuring quantities of MDMA, many LSD dealers shifted to MDMA because of the large profit margins and the lower sentencing guidelines. The remaining LSD dealers still have strong ties to sources of supply in the San Francisco Bay area

- According to the 1999-2000 data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, approximately 50% of Utah citizens felt that smoking marijuana once a month posed a great risk.²⁸

Percent of Citizens Reporting Drug Use, by Age, Utah, 1999-2000 Data

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Past month use of any illicit drug	6.46%	9.84%	3.35%	5.01%
Past month use of marijuana	4.85	7.44	1.58	3.15
Past month use of illicit drug other than marij.	3.64	5.27	2.25	3.01
Past year cocaine use	1.68	3.42	0.90	1.48
Great risk of smoking marijuana once a month	47.15	44.61	36.51	50.67

- According to 2000 data from National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, approximately 1.39% of Utah citizens reported past year dependence on illicit drugs.²⁹

Percent of Citizens Reporting Past Year Dependence, Utah, 2000

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Illicit drug dependence	2.44%	3.33%	0.62%	1.39%
Illicit drug dependence or abuse	4.30	5.41	1.08	2.35
Alcohol dependence	1.86	2.78	1.75	1.96
Alcohol or illicit drug dependence or abuse	6.18	12.24	4.53	6.21

Juveniles

- During 2001, there were 10,544 juvenile part 1 crime arrests in Utah.³⁰

Number of Juvenile Arrests, Utah, 2001

Selected Offenses	2001
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	4
Manslaughter by negligence	0
Forcible rape	78
Robbery	54
Aggravated assault	377
Burglary	607
Larceny theft	6,685
Motor vehicle theft	353
Simple assault	2,281
Arson	105
Total part 1 crime arrests	10,544
State arrest total	29,754

- During 2001, there were 145 juvenile arrests for the sale of marijuana and 1,208 arrests for the possession of marijuana.³¹

Number of Drug-Related Arrests, Utah, 2001

2001	
Drug sale or manufacturing arrests	
Sale/opium	6
Sale/marijuana	145
Sale/synthetic narcotics	9
Sale/Other	28
Drug possession arrests	
Possession/opium	17
Possession/marijuana	1,208
Possession/synthetic narcotics	20
Possession/other	331

- During 2001, 19.7% of high school students in Utah reported lifetime use of marijuana.³²

Percent of High School Students Using Selected Drugs, Utah, 2001

Drug Type and Use	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	15.7%	23.7%	19.7%
Current marijuana use	7.1	12.2	9.7
Lifetime cocaine use	3.5	4.7	4.1
Current cocaine use	1.9	3.4	2.7
Lifetime inhalants use	10.6	13.7	12.2
Current inhalant use	4.2	5.9	5.1
Lifetime heroin use	1.7	3.6	2.7
Lifetime methamphetamine use	4.7	5.8	5.3
Lifetime illegal steroid use	1.7	6.6	4.2
Lifetime injected illegal drug use	1.2	2.8	2.1
Tired marijuana before age 13 years	3.0	6.0	4.5

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2001, there were 6,835 law enforcement employees in Utah (4,614 police officers and 2,221 civilian employees).³³
- Rocky Mountain HIDTA Initiatives in Utah.³⁴
 - The Interdiction subcomponent consists of the Colorado State Patrol Interdiction Program, Utah Department of Public Safety Criminal Interdiction Team, Wyoming Highway Patrol Interdiction Program and the Denver Metro Interdiction Task Force.
 - The newly-developed Highway Patrol Network is a collaboration of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming Highway Patrols.
 - The Investigative Support Center has a satellite center in Salt Lake City, Utah and coordinates with the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation center in Cheyenne.

Trafficking and Seizures

- Mexican organizations tend to dominate large-scale cocaine distributors, though several other groups/organizations are capable of distributing kilogram quantities.³⁵
- Mexican organizations control virtually all of the heroin distributed in Utah. Traditional Mexican organizations are becoming more entrenched within Utah and currently are capable of selling multi-pound quantities of heroin. The Mexican organizations trafficking heroin also distribute cocaine and methamphetamine.³⁶
- The importation of marijuana from British Columbia, Canada, remains active in Utah although the majority of bulk-seized marijuana is of Mexican origin.³⁷
- In 2001, there were 1,849 total marijuana plants eradicated in Utah under the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.³⁸

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, Utah, 2001

<u>Outdoor Operations</u>		<u>Indoor Operations</u>		Total Plants Eradicated
Plots Eradicated	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	
6	113	7	1,736	1,849

- Through some aggressive legislation and enforcement/prosecution efforts, Utah has seen a decrease in the number of methamphetamine labs over the last couple of years.³⁹
- The size of methamphetamine laboratories appears to be decreasing, as the majority of labs uncovered are classified as small and rudimentary. The "Black Market" prices for necessary precursor chemicals (i.e., ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, iodine, etc.) has increased significantly over the last several years. Nonetheless, methamphetamine remains readily available throughout the state via local clandestine labs, as well as from Mexican organizations that import and distribute large quantities.⁴⁰
- Methamphetamine lab seizures increased from 62 during 1996 to 240 during 1999. Since 1999, the number of methamphetamine labs seized has decreased to 159 during 2001.⁴¹

Methamphetamine Labs Seized, Utah, 1996-2001

Year	Lab Seizures
1996	62
1997	87
1998	105
1999	240
2000	207
2001	159

- During 2001, Federal agencies seized 23.9 kilograms of cocaine in Utah.⁴²

Amount of Drug Seized by Federal Agencies, Utah, 2001

Amount Seized (in kilograms)	
Cocaine	23.9
Heroin	0.4
Marijuana	13.1
Methamphetamine	6.6

Courts

➤ Drug Courts⁴³

As of January 8, 2003, there were 26 drug courts in Utah. Fifteen were operating for over 2 years, 10 were recently implemented, and 1 was being planned.

- Since 1996, there have been over 3,500 people enrolled in a drug court program in Utah. At any given time in Utah, close to 1,800 people are participating in a drug court.⁴⁴
- During FY 2001, 17.2% of Federally sentenced defendants in Utah had committed drug offenses. Approximately 64.7% of these drug offenses involved methamphetamine.⁴⁵

Federal Sentencing Statistics, Drug Offenses, Utah, FY 2001

Drug Type Involved	Offenses	Percentage of Total
Powder cocaine	9	9.4%
Crack cocaine	4	4.7
Heroin	1	1.2
Marijuana	16	18.8
Methamphetamine	55	64.7
Other	1	1.2

Corrections

- As of January 31, 2001, there were 5,343 prisoners under the jurisdiction of State and Federal correctional authorities in Utah.⁴⁶
- As of January 31, 2001, there were 10,331 persons on probation and 3,471 persons on parole in Utah.⁴⁷
- Collaborative Interventions for Abusing Offenders (CIAO) Program⁴⁸
The CIAO program targets parolees and probationers with serious substance abuse issues.
- According to the Treatment Needs of Prison Inmates Study, 69.5% of inmates interviewed were assessed to need some type of alcohol or drug treatment in 2001.⁴⁹

Consequences of Use

- There are 50 alcohol and drug-related motor vehicle crash fatalities each year in Utah.⁵⁰
- Drug abuse deaths increased from 102 in 1997 to 148 in 1999 in the Salt Lake Metropolitan area, which includes Davis, Salt Lake, and Weber Counties. This number decreased from 148 in 1999 to 98 during 2001.⁵¹

Number of Drug Abuse Deaths and Drug Mentions, Salt Lake Area, 1997-2001

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Alcohol-in-combination	28	28	30	33	21
Cocaine	44	77	76	59	30
Heroin	67	83	90	80	43
Marijuana	2	1	1	--	2
Amphetamines	8	15	24	12	9
Methamphetamine	11	22	24	15	8
Club Drugs	--	--	1	2	1
Hallucinogens	--	--	--	1	1
Inhalants	1	--	1	--	--
Narcotic analgesics	18	15	28	39	43
Other analgesics	1	2	2	3	7
Benzodiazepines	6	5	8	14	13
Antidepressants	17	4	9	8	7
All other substances	12	9	9	15	24
Total drug deaths	102	118	148	129	98
Total drug mentions	215	261	303	281	209

Treatment

- During FY 2002, there were 3,675 treatment admissions for methamphetamine, accounting for 18.33% of all admission in Utah.⁵²

Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions, Utah, FY 2002

Drug Type	Number	Percent
Alcohol	7,834	39.08%
Marijuana/hashish	3,442	17.17
Heroin	1,459	7.28
Other opiates/synthetics	543	2.71
Club drugs	27	0.13
Other hallucinogens	52	0.26
Cocaine/crack	1,193	5.95
Methamphetamine	3,675	18.33
Other stimulants	98	0.49
Benzodiazepines	88	0.44
Other sedative-hypnotics	52	0.26
Inhalants	30	0.15
Over the counter	17	0.08
Other	93	0.46
None/missing	1,443	7.20
Total	20,046	100.0

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This State Profile was prepared by the ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is funded by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and is a component of the [National Criminal Justice Reference Service](#). For further information concerning the contents of this profile or other drug policy issues, contact:

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